

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00

L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 INT-05 GSA-02

/095 W

-----051241Z 014443 /53

R 051032Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7068

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNCTAD ETRD

SUBJ: TUNGSTEN: CONSUMER-PRODUCER PROCEDURAL DECISION FOR
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REF: GENEVA 3209

1. FINAL TEXT OF PRODUCER-CONSUMER AGREED PROCEDURE FOR
FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON TUNGSTEN DIFFERS ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM
TEXT SENT VIA REFTEL. IN PARA ONE REFERENCE TO SUBMISSION
OF PROPOSALS WHICH READ QUOTE WHICH PARTICIPANTS WISH TO
SUBMIT UNQUOTE NOW READS QUOTE WHICH MAY BE SUBMITTED
UNQUOTE. OBJECTIVE IS TO ALLOW NON-PARTICIPANTS IN AD
HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS AS
WELL. PARA FOUR NOW READS QUOTE THE BOARD INVITED THE
FOLLOWING COUNTRIES TO NOMINATE EXPERTS: CONSUMERS-USSR,
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USA, UK, FED REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, SWEDEN, JAPAN, FRANCE;
PRODUCERS-AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BOLIVIA, CANADA, CHINA, SPAIN
THAILAND. THE BOARD ALSO INVITED THE GROUP TO KEEP
THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP UNDER REVIEW. UNQUOTE.
POLAND AGREED NOT TO BE INCLUDED BUT FRANCE INSISTED UPON
PARTICIPATING SO SPAIN WAS ADDED TO PRODUCER SIDE TO
KEEP MEMBERSHIP EVEN. FINAL SENTENCE WAS ADDED TO PERMIT

INCREASED PARTICIPATION SHOULD A COUNTRY LATER FEEL IT
MUST BE INCLUDED AND THE GROUP FEEL ADDITIONAL MEMBERS
CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT HAMPERING WORK PROGRAM.

2. IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING THIS STATEMENT, THREE
ISSUES WERE CENTRAL: (1) TERMS OF REFERENCE (2) COMPO-
SITION AND SIZE AND (3) COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATIONS.
PRODUCERS ORIGINALLY INDICATED THEY WANTED A VERY LIMITED
GROUP OF EXPERTS, PREFERABLY FOUR, WHICH WOULD COMPLETE
ITS WORK BY OCTOBER 1977 FOLLOWED BY A NEGOTIATING
CONFERENCE. DURING FIRST DAY'S MEETINGS PRODUCERS APPEARED
WILLING TO ACCEPT MODIFICATION OF ORIGINAL CONSUMER
PROPOSAL AT NOVEMBER 1976 SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN
(COT) (TD/B/C.1/204, ANNEX IV) SIMPLY BY LISTING FIVE
COUNTRIES FROM EACH GROUP TO COMPRISE GROUP OF EXPERTS
AND BY REFERRING TO FIRST MEETING OF COT FOLLOWING
COMPLETION OF EXPERT'S WORK AS A QUOTE PREPARATORY UNQUOTE
MEETING.

3. AT NEXT DAY'S MEETINGS PRODUCERS RETURNED TO A VERY
HARD LINE INSISTING THAT NOTHING LESS THAN A COMMITMENT TO
NEGOTIATION FOLLOWING EXAMINATION BY EXPERTS WOULD BE
ACCEPTABLE. CONSUMERS INFORMED PRODUCERS THAT THEIR
RETURN TO THIS POSITION INDICATED A REGRESSION TO THE
IMPASSE OF LAST NOVEMBER AND CONSUMERS IN TURN COULD
ACCEPT NOTHING MORE THAN AGREEMENT THAT A DECISION ON
WHETHER TO NEGOTIATE WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT THE COT
MEETING. DURING LUNCH BREAK AUSTRALIAN REP (GLENN)
PERSUADED BOLIVIAN REP (ITURRALDE) TO ACCEPT EXPERTS'
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REPORTING TO A PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE COT WITH A
DECISION ON NEGOTIATION TO BE MADE BY A SESSION OF THE
TDB. PRODUCERS THEN PRESENTED TEXT SUBSTANTIALLY AS
IN PRESENT FORM EXCEPT THAT CHINA HAD NOT YET APPROVED
IT. BOLIVIAN REP MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT
COMPROMISE WITHOUT CHINESE AND PLANNED TO TAKE ISSUE
BEFORE G-77, ALREADY HAVING AGREEMENT FROM LATIN AMERICAN
GROUP, TO FORCE VOTE ON IMMEDIATE CALL TO NEGOTIATIONS
BY TDB. CHINA FINALLY AGREED TO TEXT AS IT STOOD AND
OTHER ISSUES WERE SETTLED QUICKLY.

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4. SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF THIS AGREEMENT SHOULD BE BORNE
IN MIND WHEN PREPARING FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF EXPERTS.

(A) WHILE NOT IN THE TEXT, THREE MEETINGS ARE PLANNED --
JULY, OCTOBER, JANUARY. EXPERTS GROUP WILL SEEK TO
COMPLETE WORK AT OCTOBER SESSION WITH DRAFT REPORT SO
THAT JANUARY MEETING CAN REVIEW DRAFT FOR FINAL SUBMISSION
TO COT. SCHEDULING WAS DIFFICULT GIVEN HEAVY UNCTAD
SCHEDULE AND FINAL DATES WILL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED.

(B) PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE
LIMITED SO THAT GROUP COULD BE EASILY ACCOMMODATED
BY UNCTAD AND ALSO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY. ALSO A
LIMITED MEMBERSHIP WOULD PREVENT GROUP FROM SIMPLY
BEING COT UNDER ANOTHER NAME. IN LIGHT OF EXPANSION
OF PARTICIPANTS TO FOURTEEN, MISSION STRONGLY RECOMMENDS
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THAT SIZE OF U.S. DEL BE LIMITED TO THREE OR AT MOST
FOUR. ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THIS LIMITED SIZE OF DEL BE
COMMUNICATED ASAP TO ALL OTHER PARTICIPATING CAPS TO
INDICATE U.S. INDEED INTENDS TO HOLD DOWN NUMBERS.

(C) ANY PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED ARE TO BE AVAILABLE
PRIOR TO OR AT TIME OF FIRST MEETING. WHILE IT WAS
AGREED THAT DELS WOULD CLEARLY BE FREE TO TABLE NEW

IDEAS ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF A PROPOSAL ALREADY ON THE TABLE, SUBMISSION OF A BROAD, NEW PROPOSAL AT A LATER MEETING WOULD MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GROUP TO GIVE ALL PROPOSALS ADEQUATE ATTENTION AND STILL COMPLETE ITS WORK ON TIME. IT MIGHT BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO SUBMIT A LIST OF TOPICS OR QUESTIONS TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN ADVANCE SO THEY WILL KNOW WHAT U.S. HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH AT FIRST MEETING EVEN THOUGH MUCH OF THIS WILL ALREADY BE KNOWN FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS. SINCE U.S. LAYS SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE CASE BY CASE APPROACH, AND SINCE TUNGSTEN WAS RECENTLY MENTIONED IN CIEC AS A POSSIBLE COMMODITY ON WHICH SOME AGREEMENT MIGHT BE REACHED, ANY FORTHCOMING APPROACH WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IN STRENGTHENING U.S. CASE IN OTHER AREAS, E.G., THE COMMON FUND.

5. THE DEPARTMENT IS VERY WELL AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF DISCERNING MR. ITURRALDE'S REAL OBJECTIVES BUT IT APPEARS THAT BOTH BOLIVIA AND AUSTRALIA ARE NOW PREPARED TO SEE THIS ISSUE THROUGH AND HAVE EITHER AN UP OR DOWN VOTE ON NEGOTIATIONS. CONSUMERS RECOGNIZED THAT ISSUE WILL NOW END UP IN HANDS OF THE TDB WHERE A POLITICAL DECISION MAY BE MADE IF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS CANNOT AGREE ON A RECOMMENDATION BUT FELT THAT SUCH A DECISION MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORCED AT THE CURRENT TDB SESSION WITHOUT THE PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT. IN ANY EVENT, THERE WAS NEAR UNANIMOUS FEELING THAT TUNGSTEN SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER INTEGRATED PROGRAM AND THE USE OF THE WORD PREPARATORY IS NOT TO BE MISCONSTRUED AS BRINGING TUNGSTEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER THE IPC.

6. THE ONLY DIFFICULTY TDB FACED WITH THIS PROCEDURE WAS WHETHER IT SHOULD DECIDE TO HOLD A SPECIAL SESSION JUST TO DECIDE ON TUNGSTEN. WORD QUOTE SPECIAL UNQUOTE WAS DROPPED FROM TEXT BUT TDB DID DECIDE IT WOULD HAVE TO CONVENE A SESSION IN THE SPRING OF 1978 SINCE NO REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR. SOME FELT THAT SEVERAL OTHER ISSUES MIGHT BE RIPE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE SAME TIME SO THAT A SPECIAL SESSION COULD BE JUSTIFIED BUT SCHEDULING REMAINS OPEN TO CHANGE IF DEEMED ADVISABLE.

7. AT FINAL SESSION OF TDB ON MAY 4, FIRST MEETING OF EXPERTS WAS SET FOR JULY 18-22.

8. DEPARTMENT NOTE. INFO LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF EXPERTS GROUP. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO OTHER POSTS IF FUTURE ACTION BY THEM CONTEMPLATED.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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